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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9171  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 001837

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STATE FOR EUR/RUS, EUR/WE

EO 12958 DECL: 07/09/2018  
TAGS PGOV, ECON, ENRG, PREL, UK, RS  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN OFFICE SEES BROWN-MEDVEDEV TALKS LEADING  
TO WARMER UK-RUSSIAN RELATIONS

Classified By: Political Counselor Richard M. Mills Jr. for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary. Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev used their first one-on-one meeting at the G8 summit to build

2. (SBU) Summary continued. Though the Brown-Medvedev meeting touched on important international issues, the FCO said the most important outcome

Litvinenko

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3. (C/NF) PM Brown briefly brought up the Litvinenko murder case and the extradition request, and Medvedev apparently sought to bury the matter

4. (C/NF) In a separate meeting on the day of the briefing, Cabinet Office Director General Margaret Aldred confirmed to the DCM that the Brown

Visas and Diplomatic Relations

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5. (C/NF) Brown and Medvedev made little progress on the issue of diplomatic visas, which are still being restricted by both countries as part

6. (C/NF) According to the FCO, HMG has had good reasons to refuse many Russian visa requests. HMG officials see a real "intelligence threat from

British Petroleum

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7. (SBU) Medvedev confirmed to Brown that he had met with Russian shareholders of TNK-BP, and indicated to them that they could seek legal recourse

International Institutions

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8. (SBU) Medvedev brought up the need for major reform of international institutions, one of the PM's main international initiatives. Medvedev

British Council

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9. (SBU) Medvedev told Brown that while Russia no longer views the British Council in Russia as a "den of spies," there still exist legal issues

Kyoto Protocol

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10. (SBU) Medvedev indicated to Brown that Russia might be willing to support a 2012 post-Kyoto framework, but expressed concerns about the Russian

FCO's Analysis: Medvedev is not Putin

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11. (C/NF) FCO officials expressed optimism that Medvedev will bring a partial liberalization to Russian political life. They see signs of a shift

12. (C/NF) FCO officials said that the EU should hold off on signing a new PCA, which expires at the end of 2008, and wait to see if Medvedev

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